

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A layered structure comprising[[;]]:
 - a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting of at least one of Ti, Cr, TiC, TiN, TiCN, CrN or Cr₃C₂;
 - a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.
2. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said first intermediate layer consists of titanium and/or chromium.
3. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said structure further comprises at least a layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition on top of said diamond-like carbon layer.
4. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said first intermediate layer has a thickness between 0.001 and 1 μm .
5. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said second intermediate layer has a thickness of 0.01 to 5 μm .
6. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said diamond-like carbon layer has a thickness between 0.1 and 10 μm .

7. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said nanocomposite composition comprises in proportion to the sum of C, Si, and O in at % 40 to 90 % C, 5 to 40 % Si, and 5 to 25 % O.

8. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said second intermediate layer comprises a metal doped diamond-like nanocomposite composition.

9. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 1, wherein said diamond-like carbon layer is doped with a metal.

10. (Previously Presented) An article of manufacture, comprising:
a substrate covered at least partially with a layered structure according to claim 1.

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A method to cover a substrate with a layered structure, said method comprising the steps of:

- providing a substrate;
- applying a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer comprising at least one element of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- applying a second intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
- applying a diamond-like carbon layer to obtain a layered structure according to claim 1.

13. (Previously Presented) A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting essentially of at least one of Ti, Cr, TiC, TiN, TiCN, CrN or Cr₃C₂;

- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

14. (Previously Presented) A layered structure comprising:

- a first intermediate layer, said first intermediate layer consisting essentially of one or more elements from at least one of group IVB, group VB or group VIB;
- a second intermediate layer deposited on top of said first intermediate layer, said second intermediate layer comprising a diamond-like nanocomposite composition; and
 - a diamond-like carbon layer deposited on top of said second intermediate layer.

15. (Previously Presented) A layered structure according to claim 14, said first intermediate layer consisting of one or more elements from at least one of group IVB, group VB or group VIB.